



Chapter 6

Adverse Environmental Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided

6.0 ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS THAT CANNOT BE
 AVOIDED

THE RESERVATION

6.1 SOIL CHARACTERISTICS

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Increased disturbance of desert pavement and other soil stabilizers. Compaction and shear stresses with resultant alterations to water holding capacity, permeability, and temperature variability. Accelerated aeolian and fluvian erosion.

Mitigation Measures: Confine training to as few acres as practical. Certain areas designated for training to be delineated on maps. Other areas to be restricted to access by tactical vehicles.

6.2 AIR QUALITY

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Increase in total suspended particulate (TSP) concentrations during periods of high winds and dry soil conditions, with the potential for local and regional scale visibility reduction.

Mitigation Measures: Vehicles use hard surface roads where possible.

6.3 VEGETATION

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Reduced vegetative cover. Reduced diversity of species.

Mitigation Measures: Existing vegetation will be protected from men and vehicles by confining training to as few acres and areas as possible. Administrative and non-tactical vehicles will be restricted to established roads.

6.4 WILDLIFE

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Destruction of wildlife and habitat, affecting species throughout the food web. Reduction of diversity of species. Threat to seven rare species: Mojave ground squirrel, desert horned lizard, desert tortoise, banded gecko, the prairie falcon, burrowing owl and desert kit fox.

Mitigation Measures: Execute Wildlife Management Program, in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game. Include a survey of prairie falcon nesting locations in the program.

6.5 ARCHAEOLOGIC AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Destruction of archaeologic sites. Loss of contextual relationship of artifacts.

Mitigation Measures: Archaeologic field reconnaissance and evaluation of cultural resources. Nomination of sites for the National Register. Salvage archaeology. The Proposed Program Survey and Classification of Cultural Resources - Fort Irwin Military Reservation is included in Appendix D of this statement.

6.6 AESTHETIC QUALITIES

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Gradual change in landscape character. New and potentially permanent scars.

Mitigation Measures: Restrict vehicles to roads where possible.

6.7 RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Increase in potential for incidents.

Mitigation Measures: Advance coordination.

THE CANTONMENT AREA

6.8 WATER SUPPLY

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Mining of water, leading to depletion of groundwater basins and increased energy required for pumping. Subsidence causing ground tilting and surface warping, and cracking.

Mitigation Measures: Basin management program in Phase II of Fort Irwin Master Plan, including pumping sequence control. Enforcement of water conservation practices.

6.9 NOISE

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: High noise levels from military training activities.

Mitigation Measures: Master Plan Noise Study to include noise abatement procedures, such as afterburners, sound insulation of housing and base facilities.

THE BARSTOW AREA

6.10 HOUSING

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Increased housing demand, with shortage of multifamily dwellings for low and moderate-income families.

Mitigation Measures: Army Housing assistance program, pending Master Plan assessment. Additional on-base housing or assistance to families in purchasing off-base units.

6.11 PUBLIC SAFETY

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Increased need for police and fire personnel.

Mitigation Measures: Orientation program to encourage off-base personnel to serve as volunteer firemen.

6.12 TRANSPORTATION

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Increased traffic volume on Barstow-Fort Irwin access road, with increase in noise levels and decrease in ambient air quality.

Mitigation Measures: Use of trailer spaces during construction phase to decrease commuting. Encouragement of carpooling. Commuter buses.

6.13 WATER SUPPLY

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Increase in rate of overdraft of water supply.

Mitigation Measures: Encourage water conservation measures.

6.14 NOISE

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: Increase in noise levels around the Barstow-Dagget Airport.

Mitigation Measures: Airport use will be minimized. After 1983, an improved airfield, as part of the Fort Irwin Master Plan, will be available which would negate the need to use the Barstow-Dagget Airport.